THE

# SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

## Mercantile Library Association

OF THE

## CITY OF BROOKLYN.

PRESENTED MARCH 30, 1865.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.:
PRINTED FOR THE ASSOCIATION.
1865.

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OF THE

# BROOKLYN MERCANTILE LIBRARY.

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ABRAHAM B. BAYLIS,
JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM,
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN,
THOMAS T. BUCKLEY,
WILLIAM H. MELLEN,

*Ex officio,*

FRANKLIN WOODRUFF, PREST. M. L. A.,
COE ADAMS, TREAS. M. L. A.

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SIMEON B. CHITTENDEN.

VICE-PRESIDENT,
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SECRETARY,
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN.

TREASURER,
JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM.

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JAMES P. WALLACE,
THOMAS T. BUCKLEY.

**Finance Committee.**

THOMAS T. BUCKLEY,
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ABRAHAM B. BAYLIS.

**Building Committee (Special) of the Board of Directors.**

JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM,
JOHN R. KENNADAY,
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN,
FRANKLIN WOODRUFF.

# OFFICERS, 1864-'65.

PRESIDENT,
FRANKLIN WOODRUFF.

VICE-PRESIDENT,
JOHN R. KENNADAY.

SECRETARIES:

CORRESPONDING,
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN.

RECORDING,
G. H. VAN WAGENEN.

TREASURER,
JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

COE ADAMS,
CHARLES W. BEEBE,
JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM,
JOHN R. KENNADAY,
B. P. LUNT,
JOHN F. TALMAGE,
JAMES THORNE,
DUDLEY W. VAN INGEN,
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN,
G. H. VAN WAGENEN,
ISAAC B. WLLLINGTON,
GEORGE P. WILLEY,
FRANKLIN WOODRUFF.

LIBRARIAN,
STEPHEN B. NOYES.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN,
HENRY S. JOY,

## Executive Committees of the Board.

Library Committee.

ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN, JAMES THORNE,
JOHN F. TALMAGE.

Lecture Committee.

JOHN R. KENNADAY, JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
GEORGE P. WILLEY.

Committee on Classes.

JAMES THORNE, JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM,
DUDLEY W. VAN INGEN.

Committee on Memberships.

CHARLES W. BEEBE, ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN,
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Committee of Ways and Means.

COE ADAMS, ISAAC B. WELLINGTON,
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# OFFICERS, 1865-'66.

PRESIDENT,
FRANKLIN WOODRUFF.

VICE-PRESIDENT,
JOHN R. KENNADAY.

SECRETARIES.

CORRESPONDING,
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN.

RECORDING,
RAYMOND JENKINS.

TREASURER,
COE ADAMS.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

(*Term Expires, April*, 1866.)

COE ADAMS,
JOHN R. KENNADAY,
DUDLEY W. VAN INGEN,
G. H. VAN WAGENEN,
FRANKLIN WOODRUFF.

(*Term Expires, April*, 1867.)

CAMDEN C. DIKE,
WILLIAM A. FOWLER,
RAYMOND JENKINS,
BENJAMIN P. LUNT,
ISAAC B. WELLINGTON.

(*Term Expires, April*, 1868.)

JOSIAH B. BLOSSOM,
JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM,
FRANCIS D. MOULTON,
GEORGE S. NICHOLS,
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN.

LIBRARIAN,
STEPHEN B. NOYES.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS,
HENRY S. JOY, JOHN B. NOYES.

## Executive Committees of the Board.

**Library Committee.**

ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN, JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM, JOSIAH B. BLOSSOM,

**Lecture Committee.**

JOHN R. KENNADAY, CAMDEN C. DIKE, FRANCIS D. MOULTON,

**Committee on Classes.**

GEORGE S. NICHOLS, JOSIAH B. BLOSSOM, G. H. VAN WAGENEN,

**Committee on Membership.**

FRANCIS D. MOULTON, GEORGE S. NICHOLS, D. W. VAN INGEN,

**Committee of Ways and Means.**

B. P. LUNT, W. A. FOWLER, I. B. WELLINGTON,

# TREASURER'S REPORT,

OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE BROOKLYN MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, SINCE THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING.

**1864--1865.**

## James H. Frothingham, Treasurer, in account with The Mercantile Library Association.

| DR. RECEIPTS. | | EXPENDITURES. | CR. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1865—March 30. | | 1865—March 30. | |
| Life Memberships, | $600 00 | Salaries, | $1,833 16 |
| Initiation Fees, | 843 00 | Books, | 845 69 |
| Dues, | 5,132 40 | Newspapers and Periodicals, | 936 19 |
| Fines, | 53 24 | Binding, | 545 56 |
| Catalogues, | 53 00 | Catalogues, | 39 00 |
| Books sold, | 71 94 | Postage, | 27 39 |
| Class Committee, | 335 00 | Printing and Advertising, | 367 40 |
| Rents, | 341 50 | Stationery, | 84 33 |
| Brooklyn Athenæum, for heating lecture room, | 60 00 | Light, | 568 88 |
| | $7,460 08 | Fuel, | 472 32 |
| | | Rent, | 501 00 |
| | | Repairs, | 76 61 |
| | | Insurance, | 178 63 |
| (NOTE—The liabilities of the Association are very trifling in amount, and do not exceed the balance of cash on hand. The Association holds, as heretofore, 32 shares of Athenæum stock.) | | Incidentals, | 400 71 |
| | | | $6,876 85 |
| | | Cash in Bank subject to the order of the Trustees, being amount of Life Memberships received during the year, and constituting the "Fund" of the Association, | 600 00 |
| | | | $7,476 85 |
| Balance from March 31, 1864 | 116 79 | Cash on hand, | 100 02 |
| | $7,576 87 | | $7,576 87 |

Audited March 30, 1865,

COE ADAMS,
B. P. LUNT,
Committee of Ways and Means.

JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM,
TREASURER.

*Brooklyn, March* 30, 1865.

# ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Members of the Mercantile Library Association of the City of Brooklyn:

Your attention is invited to the Seventh Annual Report of the Board of Directors.

## MEMBERSHIP.

Our members at present number 2,233, divided into the following classes:

| | |
|---|---|
| Life members by payment of $100, | 51 |
| " " " " " 50, | 55 |
| Honorary members, | 11 |
| Life-members of the Athenæum, entitled by the terms of our lease to share in the privileges of our Association, | 23 |
| Extra subscriptions, | 123 |
| Annual members by payment of $3, | 1970 |
| Total, | 2,233 |

It is pleasant to state that of these 543 are ladies.

This report makes evident the gratifying fact of an increase of 30 per cent. in the number of our members over last year. If the real value of a higher degree of intelligence be truly appreciated by those who profess an interest in our Library, their influence will be put forth more positively in its favor; and we therefore urge all

who can understand the true relation of our institution to the real interests of the city to a direct effort in behalf of an increase in membership, so that at the next annual meeting, your Board of Directors may make an announcement even more satisfactory than ours to-night.

A sound thinker has said, that "Woman is destined one day to come forth and introduce a better element into the family, society, politics, and church, and to bless us far more than the highest of men are yet aware. Out of that mine the fine gold is to be brought, which shall sanctify the church, and save the state." Accordingly, we ask those good women who honor this Association with their names, to exercise their gentle, but powerful influence, even more than hitherto, upon those who are not, but ought to be, partakers with them of the benefits which it confers.

## LIBRARY.

The library has furnished during the present year one of the strongest evidences of the prosperity of the Association, for while the net increase in the number of volumes has been limited, as usual, by an absolute inability to supply the growing demand, the circulation has reached a point altogether beyond that of any preceding year.

From the date of the last Annual Report, 31st March, 1864, up to the present time, it amounted to 62,373 volumes, or an average of 30 volumes to each account, representing a gain in circulation of more than 12,000 volumes, or 25 per cent., upon that of the previous year, and evincing the constant and general use which is made of the privileges of membership. The greatly increased cost of books, both American and foreign, together with the

total failure of the Athenæum Association to fulfill the conditions of the existing lease, under which there is now due to us over $1,000 worth of books, has rendered it impossible for us, even with the valuable assistance afforded by the Cary Fund, to make any more than the usual additions to the library. It is believed, however, that a larger proportion, than has been heretofore attained, of permanently valuable works has been secured, and that the customary rate of appreciation has been fully maintained.

The following statement shows the actual condition of the library at the present time:

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of volumes at the date of the last annual report, | 17,907 |
| Added by the Association by purchase, | 698 |
| " " " " donation, | 178 |
| " " " " binding serials, | 33 |
| " " Trustees of the Cary Fund, | 247 |
| " " Athenæum Association, | — |
| Making a gross total of | 19,063 |

From this number the following deductions are to be made:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Worn out, | 74 | |
| Sold or exchanged, | 88 | |
| Missing at the August examination, and not otherwise accounted for | 90 | |
| | — | 252 |
| Leaving a net total at this date of | | 18,811 |

—and showing a net increase during the year of 904 volumes, representing a cost to the library of $845,69.

Of the number reported missing, it is probable that only a small proportion, and those of comparatively little value, have been actually lost. Some have been rendered useless by continual wear, while others will, in time, find their way back to the shelves.

## CARY FUND.

The report of the trustees of the Cary Fund is appended. It will be seen that the amount appropriated by them for books, since March 22, 1864, has been $621 17, and that a balance remains on hand of $234 06. The number of volumes purchased is 247.

## DONATIONS.

A complete list of donations, including 181 bound volumes, and 114 pamphlets, is herewith submitted.

LIST OF DONATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1864-'65.

| | Volumes. | Pamphlets. |
|---|---|---|
| From Hon. Moses F. Odell, | 9 | 4 |
| " Dr. W. K. Brown, .300 Nos. of periodicals | 40 | 17 |
| " Dr. L. P. Brockett, | 4 | 8 |
| " Coe Adams, | | 1 |
| " the "Sons of Rhode Island," | | 1 |
| " Wm. R. Bliss, | 16 | 12 |
| " L. S. Burnham, | | 1 |
| " the State of Ohio (through S. G. Harbough, Libra'n) | 11 | 4 |
| " " City of Worcester, Mass., | | 1 |
| " Guillaume Merle, | 1 | |
| " J. Wm. Weidemeyer, | | 1 |
| " H. Wells, | | 1 |
| " U. S. Department of State, | 3 | |
| " Jno. T. Sprague, Adjutant General, | 4 | |
| " the Chamber of Commerce, N. Y., | 1 | |
| " Chas. G. Loring, (through Chas. Folsom) | | 3 |
| " Geo. Livermore, " " " | 1 | |
| " Chas. Folsom, | | 1 |
| " W. M. Olmstead, | 1 | |
| " Jno. W. Hunter, | | 2 |
| " Henry McCloskey, | 2 | |
| " State of N. Y., | 2 | |
| " Messrs. Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, | 1 | |
| " the Executive Committee of the Brooklyn and Long Island Sanitary Fair, (through Rev. F. A. Farley, D. D., *Sec'y*,) | 2 | |
| " D. R. Martin, | 1 | |
| " Howard J. Forker, | 5 | |
| " L. Y. Clark, | 40 | |
| Carried forward, | 144 | 57 |

| | Volumes. | Pamphlets. |
|---|---|---|
| Brought forward,..... | 144 | 57 |
| From Hamilton Peters,..... | 1 | |
| " Rev. A. P. Putnam,..... | | 2 |
| " G. H. Van Wagenen,..... | | 1 |
| " U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture,..... | 1 | 3 |
| " J. S. Loring,..... | 1 | |
| " U. S. Department of the Interior,..... | 28 | |
| " State Library of Pennsylvania,..... | | 1 |
| " U. S. Sanitary Commission,..... | 5 | |
| " " " " ..... | | 49 |
| " Public Library of the City of Charleston,..... .... | | 1 |
| " Maj. Gen. Robert Patterson,..... ... | 1 | |
| " Young Men's Association of the City of Buffalo,.... | | 1 |
| " Long Island Historical Society,..... | | 1 |
| " Hartford Young Men's Institute,..... | | 1 |
| " Young Men's Mercantile Library Ass'n, Cincinnati,. | | 1 |
| " Mercantile Library Company, of Philadelphia,..... | | 1 |
| " " " Association, of N. Y.,..... | | 1 |
| " Young Men's Association for Mutual Improvement of the City of Albany,..... | | 1 |
| " Jamaica Circulating Library,..... | | 1 |
| " St. Louis Mercantile Library Association,..... | | 1 |
| Total,... ..... ... | 181 | 114 |

Our excellent Librarian, Mr. S. B. Noyes, is still actively engaged in the preparation of an extended catalogue of the Library, which is designed to embrace not merely the titles of the volumes, but a complete list of the subjects treated, thus furnishing to the student, in all the departments of literature, a reliable and satisfactory guide. The work is one involving a vast amount of labor and patience, as well as a comprehensive acquaintance with books; and the systematic perseverance and intelligent care with which it has been thus far prosecuted reflects great credit upon its author. It is designed to unite the advantages of a scientific general classification with those of a popular index of subjects in one alphabetical arrangement. Though still far from completion, it is already, to a considerable extent, available for reference.

It will probably be deemed prudent, under all the circumstances, to delay its publication for the present, and, perhaps, until the Library shall be permanently established in a new location, as the time thus gained will enable us to add largely to its value, while the prospective appreciation of the currency will probably considerably diminish the cost of publication.

### READING-ROOM.

The Reading-Rooms continue to form a most attractive feature of the Library; and we cannot doubt that the largely increased expense incurred during the past year, on account of foreign periodicals, has been fully justified by the strong interest manifested by the members in this branch of our institution. Arrangements are in progress for extending the Gentlemen's Reading-Room by opening the Conversation-Room for the same uses, an improvement which will add considerably to our facilities in this respect.

### LECTURES.

Lectures have not been given during the past year because your Board have not deemed the financial condition of the Association strong enough to warrant them in taking the risk of loss incidental thereto.

### CLASSES.

The Class Committee have confined their attention to the development of the classes proper in the French, German, and Spanish languages.

The number of pupils has been as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Class in French, under Prof. L. J. Simonin, | 116 |
| " Spanish, " " Alberto De Tornos, | 33 |
| " German, " " L. Thurn, | 27 |

—showing an increase of 29, or about 20 per cent., over last year. The net income from this source is $335.

## FINANCE.

The financial condition of the Association, as shown in the annual statement of the Treasurer, is more than usually satisfactory, but results from the constant exercise of a most rigid economy in every department.

| | |
|---|---|
| The total receipts to March 30, 1865, have been | $7,576 87 |
| " expenditures to March 30, 1865, (including $600 funded)* have been | 7,476 82 |
| Leaving a cash balance of | $100 05 |

No liabilities are known to exist, and the future is free from embarrassment.

We have overcome the most serious of those difficulties which the condition of the country naturally creates, and there is no reason to doubt the early renewal of our rapid growth.

The fortunate increase of our membership, which has been especially noticeable since the movement for a new building, has given us an increased receipt of $1,275 in the items of fees and dues.

In this way we have been able to meet the advances in our current expenses, which may be stated as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| On salaries, | $350 |
| " light, | 125 |
| " fuel, | 150 |
| " periodicals, | 450 |
| " binding, | 250 |
| " incidentals, | 150 |
| " printing, | 100 |

* In addition to this amount, a further sum of $250, for Life Memberships, has been received by the Trustees, on account of the Building Fund, and is not, therefore, included in the Treasurer's statement.

The items of Insurance and Books are smaller than heretofore, but the timely appropriations from the Trustees of the Cary Fund have more than supplied our deficiency in the latter.

It is not to be understood that the Board are satisfied with the general state of the Institution, or are less sensible than others of its manifold necessities. It has been with them, however, a clear duty to avoid debt, and no improvements have been entertained for which the requisite means were not at hand. New carpets and furniture are needed, and an increased force in the Librarian's Department has become almost indispensable; but it is believed that our members will consent to forego these for the present in the certainty of a speedy satisfaction, not alone of these, but of all other conditions of our complete prosperity.

## AMENDMENT OF CHARTER.

In the prosecution of the work of obtaining subscriptions to the Building Fund, it gradually became evident that some little hesitation was felt on the part of many friends of the Association, in entrusting so large an amount of money to the custody and management of a body so devoid of all power of continuance, and so liable to yearly fluctuations of policy and opinion, as the Board of Directors of this Association, under its present Constitution.

With a view of inspiring increased confidence, it was deemed expedient to remove any objection of this nature; and the great majority of the subscriptions already received, have been obtained under a pledge that such action should be taken as might be necessary to effect this

object. With this intent, a special committee of the Board was appointed to prepare and report a draft of an amended act of incorporation, whereby an element of greater permanence and stability might be infused into the constitution of the Board of Directors, while additional guarantees for the security of the fund should be at the same time provided by the creation of a separate Board of Trustees, in which the custody and control of the trust funds of the Association should be immediately and permanently vested. After a full consideration of the subject, and a somewhat extended consultation with members of the Association, such a draft was reported and unanimously adopted by the Board; was presented to the Legislature through the Hon. Henry C. Murphy, in the Senate, and the Hon. John C. Perry, in the Assembly, and was passed and received the signature of the Governor on the 16th March inst.

A certified copy of this act is hereto appended, and is referred to as part of this report; but as portions of it require the immediate action of this meeting, it is proper to submit to submit a brief abstract of its more important provisions, as follows:

Section I. declares the purposes for which the Association is incorporated.

Section II. permits the Association to hold real and personal estate, the annual income of which shall not exceed $25,000.

Section III. provides for the government of the Association by a Board of fifteen Directors, one-third of whom shall be elected annually, to hold office for three years.

Section IV. prescribes the annual election of officers by the Board from its own body.

Section V. vests the control and management of the trust funds and property of the Association in a Board of nine trustees, members of the Association, to be known as the Trustees of the Brooklyn Mercantile Library, appointed in the first instance by the Legislature, with the power of filling all vacancies in their own body, and constituting an advisory board, whose consent is necessary to the sale, mortgage, or other disposition of the real or personal property of the Association.

Section VI. requires a joint meeting of the two Boards of Directors and Trustees annually.

The remaining sections—the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th—are chiefly formal in their character, and need not be alluded to at greater length in this place.

It will be seen from this brief statement that the act demands some important modifications of the existing Constitution, and notice of motion therefor has been duly posted.

Other amendments, having been unanimously approved by the Board of Directors, will be brought up for your consideration at the same time.

## BUILDING FUND.

The mature judgment of those most closely identified with our Association was, that to properly subserve the object for which it was intended, viz: to furnish facilities for the largest possible development of intelligence throughout the community, it was necessary that the in-

stitution should have more ample means at its disposal, and *How to do it?* was the first question that presented itself. At the last annual meeting, the subject was brought before the Association by my predecessor, and the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That this meeting does particularly approve that portion of the President's Report which relates to the future development and expansion of the resources of this Association, and that it looks to the incoming administration of the Library to give such practical effect to its suggestions, as may in their judgment be advisable and judicious."

Your present Board, in full sympathy with the trust reposed in them, entered at once upon the fulfillment of your instructions. The appeal of the Sanitary Commission to the generosity of Brooklyn had just been answered in a manner which fixed the impress of loyalty for ever upon the magnanimity of our people, and although our claim was different, the conviction was clear that we could with confidence rely for success in a cause so truly noble and important as ours, upon a community that seemed to know no selfishness; and we were right.

Briefly, then, the history of our effort is as follows: At the first meeting of your Board, the sum of $7000 was subscribed as the basis of a Building Fund, and an Executive Committee was appointed to devise a plan of action.

A meeting of the Association was called, and the determination of the Committee was submitted and fully approved. An invitation was extended to some of our

citizens, widely known for their discriminating generosity, to meet the Executive Committee of the Board.

The facts of our condition were presented for their consideration, and their counsel, as well as assistance, solicited. Before proceeding further, it was deemed proper that the Board should procure plans and specifications, showing the cost of a building suitable for all the purposes of our Association. It was found that the cost of the land and building would not exceed $120,000.

Certain gentlemen of your Board at once secured the requisite land.

The business of soliciting subscriptions commenced with earnestness, and $30,000 was soon subscribed, payment being contingent upon raising the entire amount needed. A call was issued to a number of merchants and friends of the Library, in pursuance of which a preliminary meeting was held in the Directors' Room of the Academy of Music. The project was fully discussed, and a Joint Committee of Merchants and Directors was appointed to carry forward the movement, and through their zealous efforts, which have met with a hearty response—save from those who have grown narrow as they have grown rich—the sum contributed has reached $105,000, and now the "long pull, the strong pull, the pull altogether" is needed, to raise the balance of the amount —say $15,000—and we ask and hope that we shall receive the aid of those who have not helped us hitherto.

There are two considerations which render it necessary that we should advance to the completion of our new hall as soon as possible: first, the lease of our present location

expires in February, 1866; second, our development will be retarded by delay.

Finally, we congratulate you upon the inspiring fact that the successful development of the Mercantile Library Association of Brooklyn upon a scale commensurate with the interests of the city rests no longer in doubt. The public spirit and liberality of the citizens of Brooklyn have been tested, and not found wanting. The first public contribution to the Building Fund was $15, the second, $5,000. These are significant facts, because they show that poor and rich have each contributed, and that the blessings which our Institution can confer are appreciated by all. All honor, then, to those thoughtful and generous men who, thoroughly understanding the people's need, have so nobly helped to lay, broad and deep, the foundation of an institution, the blessings of whose influence shall roll onward and upward forever.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

FRANKLIN WOODRUFF,

PRESIDENT.

BROOKLYN, *March* 30, 1865.

# Amended Charter of the Association,

[REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING REPORT.]

## CHAPTER 134 OF THE LAWS OF 1865.

**AN ACT to amend an Act to Incorporate the Mercantile Library Association of the City of Brooklyn, passed March 15th, 1859.**

**Passed March 16, 1865.**

*The People of the State of New York represented in Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The purposes of the Mercantile Library Association of the City of Brooklyn, incorporated by the Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Mercantile Library Association of the City of Brooklyn," passed March fifteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, shall be the establishment and maintenance of a reference and circulating Library, reading rooms, literary and scientific lectures, classes in the various departments of instruction, and other means of promoting the improvement of its members.

SECTION 2. The said incorporation, for the purposes thereof, shall be capable of taking and holding by purchase, devise, or otherwise, and of selling, leasing, mortgaging, or otherwise disposing of, in whole or in part, any real or personal estate, the annual income of which shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars; but no such sale, lease, mortgage, or other disposition of the said estate shall be deemed to be valid, without the consent of the Trustees hereinafter named, or a majority of them, first obtained in writing.

SECTION 3. The corporate powers of the said Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors, consisting of fifteen persons, members of the said Association, five of whom, together with three inspectors to serve at the next succeeding election, shall be elected on the first Thursday in April of each year, in the manner prescribed in the Constitution of the said Association, and shall immediately enter upon the duties of their offices. On the first Thursday of April, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-five, a board of fifteen Directors shall be elected, who shall be divided by lot into three classes of five Directors each, who shall hold their offices for one, two, and three years respectively. On the first Thursday of

April, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and on the first Thursday of April in each year thereafter, there shall be elected five Directors, who shall hold their offices for three years, and until their successors shall be elected. All persons who shall have been members of said Association for six months prior to said election, and who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, shall be eligible as such Directors.

SECTION 4. The officers of the said Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the Board of Directors from their own number on the Tuesday succeeding the first Thursday in April, in such manner as shall be provided in the By-Laws of the said Board of Directors, and who shall hold their offices for one year, and until their successors shall be elected. Any vacancies which may occur in the Board of Directors or in the offices aforesaid, shall be filled in the manner provided in and by the Constitution of the said Association, and the By-Laws of the said Board of Directors.

SECTION 5. The control and management of all the trust funds and property of the Association shall be vested in a board of nine Trustees, who shall be known as "The Trustees of the Brooklyn Mercantile Library," of whom the President of the said Mercantile Library Association shall be one, and the Treasurer of the said Mercantile Library Association shall be one, by virtue of their respective offices. The said Trustees shall constitute an advisory board, whose consent as hereinbefore expressed shall be necessary to the valid and effectual transfer, sale, lease, mortgage, or other disposition of the real or personal estate of the said Association, and to the adoption of any plans, or the erection of any buildings which now are or may hereafter be contemplated by the Board of Directors; and shall keep the trust funds of the Association securely invested, and shall pay over the income derived therefrom, as the same shall accrue, to the Treasurer of the said Association--whose receipt therefor shall be a full and sufficient discharge to the said Trustees and their successors—to be applied by the Board of Directors to the proper uses and purposes of the said incorporation. And the President and Treasurer of the said Association for the time being, and Simeon B. Chittenden, James P. Wallace, Abraham B. Baylis, James H. Frothingham, Adrian Van Sinderen, Thomas T. Buckley, and William H. Mellen, shall be the first Trustees for the purposes of this act. And the said Trustees shall have power to fill any vacancy which may occur in their own body by death, resignation, or otherwise, (except in the cases of the President and Treasurer of the said Association,) provided that any person chosen to fill said vacancy shall be at the time of his election and during his continuance in office as such Trustee, a member of the said Mercantile Library Association.

SECTION 6. There shall be a joint meeting of the Boards of Directors and Trustees on the second Thursday of March in each year, at which time the Trustees shall report to the Board of Directors the condition of the funds and property entrusted to them, and the accounts relative thereto during the year next previous.

SECTION 7. The estate, property and funds of the said corporation shall be devoted solely to the general purposes and objects specified in the first section of this Act.

SECTION 8. The said corporation shall possess the general powers, and be subject to the general restrictions and liabilities prescribed in the third title of the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes.

SECTION 9. This Act is hereby declared to be a public Act, and shall in all courts and places be construed benignly and favorably for every beneficial purpose therein intended, and no misnomer or misdescription of the said corporation in any will, deed, gift, grant, demise, or other instrument of contract or conveyance shall defeat or vitiate the same, but every such will, deed, gift, grant, demise, or other instrument of contract or conveyance shall take effect in like manner as if the said corporation were rightly named therein, provided it be sufficiently described to ascertain the intent of the parties.

SECTION 10. All provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Mercantile Library Association of the City of Brooklyn," passed March fifteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, without prejudice to any rights accrued under the same.

SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect immediately.

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## State of New York,

*Office of the Secretary of State.*

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

[L. S.] Given under my hand and seal of office, at the city of Albany, this twentieth day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW,
*Secretary of State.*

# REPORT

OF THE

# TRUSTEES OF THE CARY FUND.

*To the Board of Directors of the Mercantile Library Association of the City of Brooklyn:*

The undersigned, Trustees of the "Cary Fund," in conformity with the requirements of their Trust, present a report of the condition of the Fund, and of the amount and character of their purchases since March 22, 1864.

No change has taken place in the Investment then reported, which consisted of five United States Five Twenty Bonds of One Thousand Dollars each. The interest collected during the year, from coupons maturing, and on balances, has amounted to $622.78 currency. The appropriations for books during the same period have been $621.17, and a balance remains in hand of $234.06.

In the purchase of books reference has been made, as far as practicable, to the immediate interest of the Library. The number of volumes purchased has been 247, as will be seen by examination of the accompanying invoices,* verified by the Librarian.

Very respectfully,

James H. Frothingham,
Adrian Van Sinderen,
Robert C. Ogden.
*Trustees.*

Brooklyn, March 23, 1865.

* The length of these invoices renders it inexpedient to publish them with the Report.

# The Seventh Annual Meeting.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the Athenæum Hall, on Thursday evening, 30th March, 1865.

Franklin Woodruff, President, in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read and approved.

Mr. James H. Frothingham, the Treasurer, submitted his Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Association since the Sixth Annual Meeting, which was, on motion, accepted and ordered on file.

The President then read the Seventh Annual Report.

Mr. Kennaday moved that the Report be accepted and placed on file, and that two thousand copies be printed for the use of the members of the Association. Carried.

On motion of Mr. Van Sinderen, the proposed amendments to the Constitution, of which due notice had been given upon the Bulletin of the Association, were then taken up, as follows:

1st Amendment.—In Art. II., Sec. 1, insert after the words "any person," at the beginning of the Section, the words "of the age of fourteen years or upwards."

In the second clause, strike out the word "fifty," and substitute "seventy-five;" and add the words "in advance" after "annually."

Strike out the last clause of the section, commencing with the words "the Board of Directors," and ending with "by the Constitution."

2nd Amendment.—In Art. II., Sec. 2, strike out the word "fifty," and substitute "one hundred;" and strike out the whole of the last clause of the section, commencing with the words "or on payment, *etc.*," and add, "and the payment of five hundred dollars in one sum shall secure a permanent transferable membership of the Association, entitling the holder to free admission to all its lectures and entertainments; and such membership shall be exchangeable for two life-memberships at the pleasure of the holder."

3rd Amendment.—In Art. III., strike out sections 1 and 2, and substitute the following:

"Sec. 1. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Board of fifteen Directors, who shall be chosen by ballot, as provided in the amended Act of Incorporation, passed 16th March, 1865; and a plurality of the votes cast shall be necessary to an election; but no person who has been a member of the Association for less than six months, or who is in arrears for dues or fines, shall be eligible to any office therein.

"Sec. 2. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be chosen annually in accordance with the provisions of the said Act of Incorporation, and of the By-Laws of the Board of Directors."

In Sec. 3, for "day" substitute "Tuesday."

4th Amendment.—In Art. IV., Sec. 5, strike out the words "all the dues and donations to the Association" and substitute the words "all moneys belonging to the Association, except the trust funds thereof, as provided in the Act of Incorporation."

5th Amendment.—In Art. VI., Sec. 1, strike out the first clause, commencing with the words "the first election, *etc.*," and ending with "the annual meeting"; and substitute the following: "An election for Directors of this Association, in accordance with the terms of its Charter, shall be held on the first Thursday of April in each year."

In the same article, Sec. 2, strike out the word "succeeding."

The amendments as proposed were unanimously adopted.

Mr. Cutter moved that subscription lists be opened at the Library, and that members of the Association be requested by advertisement in the daily papers to aid in raising the sum of $15,000 needed to complete the Building Fund. Motion carried.

Mr. Ogden moved that a vote of thanks be tendered to the Board for their services during the past year. Unanimously carried.

On motion, adjourned.

(Signed,)

G. H. VAN WAGENEN,

*Recording Secretary.*

# THE CONSTITUTION

OF THE

# Mercantile Library Association

OF THE

# CITY OF BROOKLYN.

(AS AMENDED MARCH 30, 1865.)

## PREAMBLE.

WE, the subscribers, being desirous of establishing in the city of Brooklyn a Library and Reading-Room, and, in connection therewith, such classes and lectures as will conduce to our mutual improvement, do hereby associate ourselves together for such purpose, and adopt for our government the following Constitution :

## ARTICLE I.

### NAME.

SEC. 1. This Association shall be known as "THE MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF BROOKLYN."

## ARTICLE II.

### MEMBERS.

SEC. 1. Any person of the age of fourteen years or upwards, engaged as clerk, student, journeyman mechanic, or apprentice, may become a member of this Association, if approved by the Board of Directors, on subscribing the Constitution, and paying an Initiation Fee of one dollar, and fifty cents for the first three months ; his further regular dues shall be, for the remainder of the first year, fifty cents per quarter, payable in advance, and thereafter, seventy-five cents per quarter, payable in advance. Females shall be entitled to the privileges of the Library and Reading-Room on the same conditions. All other persons may become members, on the above conditions, by paying three dollars per annum in advance ; and any member shall be entitled to draw two sets of books at one time by the additional payment of two dollars per annum in advance.

Any member of this Association commencing business on his own account may

continue his membership upon the payment of seventy-five cents per quarter in advance for the term of five years, after which his dues shall be three dollars annually, in advance.

SEC. 2. Any person may become a life member by the payment of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS in one sum, which shall entitle him to all the privileges of annual membership without being subject to further dues; and the payment of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS in one sum shall secure a permanent transferable membership of the Association, entitling the holder to free admission to all its lectures and entertainments; and such membership shall be exchangeable for two life-memberships at the pleasure of the holder.

SEC. 3. The Board of Directors, in special cases for services rendered, may elect honorary members of this Association, who shall be entitled to all the privileges of regular membership, except the right to vote and to hold office.

SEC. 4. The privileges of any member shall be suspended during his neglect to pay dues or fines; and a continuance of such neglect for one year shall forfeit his membership, unless his delinquency be excused by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE III.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SEC. 1. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Board of fifteen Directors, who shall be chosen by ballot, as provided in the amended Act of Incorporation, passed 16th March, 1865; and a plurality of the votes cast shall be necessary to an election; but no person who has been a member of the Association for less than six months, or who is in arrears for dues or fines, shall be eligible to any office therein.

SEC. 2. The Officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be chosen annually, in accordance with the provisions of the said act of Incorporation, and of the By-Laws of the Board of Directors.

SEC. 3. The Board of Directors shall meet on the Tuesday succeeding the annual election, for the purpose of organization, and thereafter they shall meet at least once in each month.

SEC. 4. The Board of Directors shall have power to fill all vacancies occurring in their number.

SEC. 5. At the annual meeting, the Board of Directors shall report the proceedings for the last year, with a detailed statement of the condition of the Library, and the state of the Association.

## ARTICLE IV.

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SEC. 1. The PRESIDENT shall preside at the meetings of the Association, and of the Board of Directors, preserve order therein, and perform all other duties which usually appertain to such an office.

SEC. 2. The VICE-PRESIDENT, in the absence of the President, shall perform all the duties of that officer.

SEC. 3. The CORRESPONDING SECRETARY shall conduct the correspondence of the Association, under the superintendence of the Board of Directors.

SEC. 4. The RECORDING SECRETARY shall keep an accurate record of the transactions of the Association, and of the Board of Directors.

SEC. 5. The TREASURER shall receive all moneys belonging to the Association, except the Trust Funds thereof, as provided in the Act of Incorporation, and shall deposit the same to the credit of the Association in such bank as shall be selected by the Board of Directors, and shall give such bonds for the faithful discharge of his duties as the Board may require. No moneys shall be paid out except by the order of the Board, and upon cheques drawn by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President. He shall present a report of the financial affairs of the Association to the Board at each of their meetings, and a general report at the Annual Meeting of the Association.

## ARTICLE V.

### MEETINGS.

SEC. 1. There shall be an ANNUAL MEETING of the Association held on the last Thursday in March of each year, for the purpose of hearing the reports of the Treasurer and Board of Directors.

SEC. 2. The President, at the request of the Board, or at the written request of fifty members, stating the business to be transacted thereat, shall call a special meeting of the Association, two weeks notice thereof having been given in two daily newspapers published in the City of Brooklyn, and posted on the bulletin of the Association ; and no other business shall be transacted at any such special meeting than shall be named in the call.

## ARTICLE VI.

### ELECTIONS.

SEC. 1. An election for Directors of this Association, in accordance with the terms of its Charter, shall be held on the first Thursday of April in each year. The polls shall be kept open from 8 to 10 A. M , and from 4 to 9 P. M. No member shall be entitled to vote who has been a member less than fifteen days, or who is in arrears for dues or fines.

SEC. 2. The Board of Directors shall cause notice of each election to be inserted semi-weekly, in two newspapers published in the City of Brooklyn, for four weeks previous thereto.

## ARTICLE VII.

### RECEIPTS FUNDED.

All moneys received for life-memberships, and all moneys received by gift or bequest of the sum of fifty dollars and upwards (unless otherwise specifically given or bequeathed) shall be received and held as a fund, the principal of which shall not be encroached upon for current expenses.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### ALTERATIONS.

SEC. 1. There shall be no alteration in this Constitution, unless notice of the same shall have been given on the bulletin of the Association at least one month previous to the annual meeting, and then approved by two-thirds of the members of the Association present at such meeting.

# LIFE MEMBERS

OF THE

# Mercantile Library Association,

## MARCH 30, 1865.

BY THE PAYMENT OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

Coe Adams,
A. W. Benson,
Thomas T. Buckley,
Rev. Wm. I. Buddington, D. D.,
J. Bullard,
Rev. Hugh S. Carpenter,
Georgia A. Cassidy,
Meeta Cassidy,
S. B. Chittenden,
Isaac L. Condit,
George N. Curtis,
Smith J. Eastman,
DeWitt C. Enos, M. D.,
Rev. F. A. Farley, D. D.,
E. W. Fiske,
Hobart Ford,
Jas. H. Frothingham,
George S. Howland,
Thomas Hunt,
N. E. James,
Charles Kelsey,
Wm. Kumbel,
E. C. Litchfield,
Rev. Willis Lord,
Rev. A. N. Littlejohn, D. D.,
A. A. Low,
Thomas Messenger,
James McLean,
Samuel McLean,
Rev. John A. Paddock,
George Phipps,
Lewis Roberts,
Rev. Charles S. Robinson,
J. P. Robinson,
Thomas H. Rodman,
George G. Sampson,
Henry Sheldon,
Samuel Sloan,
John Sneden,
Rev. Samuel T. Spear, D. D.
Rev. R. S. Storrs, Jr., D. D.,
W. H. Swan,
Rev. E. E. L. Taylor,
Alfred Thompson,
Gould H. Thorp,
Charles A. Townsend,
Alanson Trask,
S. D. C. Van Bokkelen,
Rev. Henry J. Van Dyke,
James P. Wallace,
Isaac B. Wellington.

### BY THE PAYMENT OF FIFTY DOLLARS.

E. B. Abbott,
George W. Baxter,
J. C. Beale,
William R. Bliss,
O. N. Bostwick,
Fritz Brosé,
Rev. J. H. H. Brown,
Lyman S. Burnham,
Edwin C. Burt,
James L. Butler,
A. B. Capwell,
S. T. Caswell,
Rev. Rufus W. Clark, D.D.,
John D. Cocks,
John James Cocks,
A. M. Coffin,
Rev. I. F. Cox,
H. H. Dickinson,
Camden C. Dike,
M. H. Elkins,
William Evans,
Charles P. Gerrish,
Walter S. Griffith,
A. A. Hall,
A. Cooke Hull, M. D.,
Samuel Hutchinson,
George A. Jarvis,
Henry P. Journeay,
John R. Kennaday,
Edward Lambert,
W. F. Lewis,
Charles R. Lynde,
David Moffat,
Henry P. Morgan,
Henry E. Nesmith,
Francis Palmer,
Lorin Palmer,
J. C. Parsons,
Samuel Perry,
Nathaniel Putnam,
N. Devereux Putnam,
Henry G. Reeve,
C. H. Raymond,
Robert F. Sage,
Norman D. Sampson,
R. L. Schoonmaker,
L. J. Simonin,
Ira Smith,
Rev. N. E. Smith, D. D.,
George S. Stephenson,
B. P. Sherman,
Charles A. Sterling,
James Thorne,
Adrian Van Sinderen,
W. A. Work.

# Honorary Members.

Mrs. MARIA CARY,
Rev. HENRY WARD BEECHER,
Rev. E. H. CHAPIN, D. D.,
Hon. GEORGE W. CURTIS,
" A. OAKEY HALL,
" RICHARD O'GORMAN,
Rev. JOHN H. RAYMOND,
Hon. JAMES T. BRADY,
" HENRY WINTER DAVIS,
" HENRY C. MURPHY,
" JOHN C. PERRY.

# MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

## Rooms corner of Atlantic and Clinton Streets, Brooklyn.

The terms of subscription are, for Clerks, Students, Journeymen Mechanics, and Apprentices, first year, One Dollar Initiation Fee, and Two Dollars per annum, payable quarterly if desired; thereafter, Three Dollars per annum, payable quarterly if desired; for all other persons, except Ladies, Three Dollars per annum, payable in advance.

Members are entitled to draw two sets of books at one time by the additional payment of Two Dollars per annum, in advance.

Ladies can secure the privileges of the Library on the lowest terms mentioned above. A Reading-Room for the use of Ladies adjoins the Library, where Lady Subscribers will be furnished with Books and Periodicals, on application to the Librarian. Copies of the Monthly Magazines, the Art Journal, the Home Journal, Once a Week, All the Year Round, etc., etc., will always be found in the Ladies' Reading Room.

## CLASSES OF 1865-66.

Arrangements are made to organize the following Classes, for the benefit of Members of the Association:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| FRENCH,..... | under the charge of | Professor | L. J. | Simonin. |
| GERMAN,..... | " | " | " | L. Thurn. |
| SPANISH,..... | " | " | " | Alberto De Tornos. |
| ITALIAN,..... | " | " | " | Achille Magni. |

**Separate Classes for Ladies in the above Branches are also organized.**

### TERMS.

To Members, for instruction in either of the above Classes, $8 per quarter of twenty lessons. To all persons who are not members of the Association, one dollar per quarter in addition to these terms will be charged.

### GENTLEMEN'S GYMNASIUM,

**At No. 12 Boerum Street.**

For one year, $18 50; for six months, $13; for three months, $9.

### BOATING AND BATHING.

Special arrangements have been made with parties in Brooklyn and New York, by which facilities are offered to members for Boating (both rowing and sailing) and salt-water Bathing, on terms greatly reduced from the current rates.

For further particulars, inquire at the Library.